

# ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



## McCormick & Baxter Superfund Site, Portland, Oregon

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10

October 2003

### McCormick & Baxter Site On a Fast Track for Cleanup

EPA is pleased to provide \$12 million to continue cleanup of the McCormick and Baxter Superfund Site in Portland, Oregon. The former wood-treating plant on the Willamette River is being cleaned up by a highly successful state-federal partnership. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) manages the overall cleanup, while EPA provides technical support and funding. DEQ expects to complete the cleanup by late 2005.

Site wood-treating operations, which ended in 1991, contaminated soil, groundwater, and river sediments with heavy metals, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), dioxin, and pentachlorophenols (PCPs). During the 2004 fiscal year already under way, the \$12 million will fund construction of a cap to contain contaminated river sediments. Another \$4 million is planned for next year to construct a soil cap on land. Both caps are necessary to complete the site cleanup. These funds follow \$4 million provided last year for a subsurface barrier wall (*see box*).

EPA's cleanup at the McCormick & Baxter site represents the Agency's largest investment of Superfund monies at a single Oregon site. The 2004 funding supplements more than \$15 million EPA has given the Oregon DEQ since 1997 for site investigation and cleanup. The State of Oregon had already invested \$8 million in remediation before the site was added to the National Priorities List.

To protect people and the Portland environment, the cleanup so far has:

- ◆ removed wood-treating chemicals and processing equipment
- ◆ demolished contaminated structures
- ◆ removed 33,000 tons of contaminated soil
- ◆ recovered 1,900 gallons of creosote from groundwater
- ◆ completed an underground barrier wall around some 16 acres of the site to prevent creosote from migrating into Willamette River sediments

### CITY HAS PLANS FOR SITE REUSE

With assistance from the Superfund Redevelopment Initiative, the City of Portland completed a reuse assessment in 2001. Public comment was received from a group of concerned citizens in the community. When the cleanup is complete, Portland plans to redevelop the prime waterfront location as a recreational park.

(Site background and contacts >>)

## SITE BACKGROUND

The former McCormick and Baxter Creosoting Company was a wood-treating facility on the Willamette River. The site covers about 45 acres of land and another 15 acres in the river. Wood-treating operations from 1944 to 1991 contaminated the soil, groundwater, and river sediments with heavy metals, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), dioxin, and pentachlorophenols (PCPs).

The site was proposed for the National Priorities List of the nation's most contaminated properties in 1993 and finalized on the list in May of 1994.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact:

**Alan Goodman**  
Remedial Project Manager  
[goodman.alan@epa.gov](mailto:goodman.alan@epa.gov)  
503-326-3685

**Judy R. Smith**  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
[smith.judy@epa.gov](mailto:smith.judy@epa.gov)  
206-326-6994

**Kevin Parrett**  
ODEQ Project Manager  
[parrett.kevin@deq.state.or.us](mailto:parrett.kevin@deq.state.or.us)  
503-229-6748

**Fenix Grange**  
Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality  
[grange.fenix@deq.state.or.us](mailto:grange.fenix@deq.state.or.us)  
503-229-6590